Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) #3 for BAA 06-007
"Navigation in a GPS-denied environment"
27 March 2006

62. What about foreign nationals working on this program?

   A: No. ONR will not permit foreign nationals to work on contracts awarded from this BAA.

63. Pertaining to Desired Capabilities in section 6.2, item number 10 states "the system should provide for a limited/text-based data transfer from tracked/remote nodes." Does this mean the device should have some sort of keyboard or stylus interface to generate this data, or only need to receive this data? If a keyboard/pad is required, is this an additional external connected device not bounded by Goal number 5 for a volume limited to 400cm^3?

   A: We believe that the one- or two-way transfer of textual information is within your design space. You should clearly note in your offer the capabilities to be provided. All items in the solution are bounded/included in the mass and volume restrictions.

64. In Goal #2, an error-probable of 25 meters is mentioned. Is this a 50% SEP? (in other words, 50% of the time the solution must be 25 meters or better)

   A: A 95% SEP of 25m is desirable.

65. In Goals #4 and #5, a maximum mass and a maximum volume are mentioned. (This relates to a maximum density of 2.5 gms/cc). If we develop a very light unit (i.e. 250 grams) but our volume is slightly larger than 400 cc (because of antennas) and we are still well below the maximum density - is this an acceptable trade-off?

   A: The mass and volume restrictions are goals to be considered within the offerors design space. The offeror should clearly note any excursions and the source selection panel will evaluate trade-offs.

66. In Goal #3, a production cost of $2k per unit is mentioned. The step between prototype and production involves a production design stage where the enclosure is designed, circuit boards are designed, components are chosen for reliability and environmental conditions, etc. This can be an expensive step. Is this cost expected to be a separate funding effort or is the $2k per unit assumed to include the amortized production design costs?

   A: While ONR does not procure end-items, you should be aware of the final desired costs (a production cost of $2K per unit) and capabilities. Productization is a separate procurement action that may be initiated by the relevant Systems Command.

67. In Goal #6, do the prototype units need to meet a maximum mass and a maximum volume goal?

   A: The prototypes should demonstrate the likelihood of achieving the desired mass and volume goals identified in the BAA solicitation (Section 6.2 Program Plan, Goals).

68. Under "Proposal Format – Volume 1- Technical and Volume 2 - Cost Proposal" in the solicitation, do you require four electronic copies on one CD or four copies on separate CDs?

   A: Four separate CDs.

69. If an Offeror is successful in obtaining Phase 1 funding, will there be an opportunity to use knowledge gained from that 7 month study to adjust the Phase 2 proposal?

    A: Technical changes may be permissible if they are within the scope and cost of the original contract award.

70. May we hand deliver our proposal to you vice mailing it?

    A: Yes.

71. Is it anticipated that we will be using the current battle space communications network for long-haul communications between cliques, and the higher level chain of commands? If so, is it expected that the system we develop integrates Land Mobile Radio functionality as well as data transport over voice coms networks?

    A: Yes. No.

72. Is a graphical map display, similar to Falconview or F2PC2 desired? If so, is the use of a handheld computing device with this built-in application part of the system proposed, or can we interface with the current units deployed in the field?

    A: A simple graphical display is required. Yes, we anticipate that offerors will propose a simple handheld computing device. No units are currently deployed at the individual warfighter level.

73. Regarding the NSA Suite B Standard: We have not been able to get any confirmation or process to follow from NSA regarding getting a product certified at this standard. No information is available regarding testing criteria, products certified, or timelines when evaluations will begin for products seeking this standard. What information is available to help offerors meet this specific requirement?

    A: We desire the communication links to be protected between nodes. The NSA Suite B is one possible implementation. Per the BAA solicitation, the website is http://www.nsa.gov/ia/industry/crypto_suite_b.cfm. Type 1 encryption is considered excessive for a technology demonstration project. It is up to the offeror if they decide to propose an alternate solution.

74. Section 6.2 Desired Capabilities Item #5. The system should provide for the fusion of multiple references in order to provide location information. Question: Are there specific external references that you are referring to in this instance or are you implying that our solutions should not rely on a single reference to provide the tracking solution?

    A: There are no specific external reference signals on which you can rely in all circumstances given the wide variety of environments in which we seek to employ this device, unless you provide your own. Therefore, if you choose to utilize commercial references or other data sources, we believe that you should provide for the fusion of multiple reference signals in order to provide for the greatest reliability and maximum utility.

75. Section 6.2 Desired Capabilities Item #6. The system should provide for auxiliary data sources / beacons for location information. Question: In FAQs #1, an answer was provided that if auxiliary sources / beacons were required for a tracking solution, they should be included in the proposal. Are there specific sources / beacons that we would need to use or just the implication of use as needed?

A: There are no specific reference beacons or auxiliary data sources designated for inclusion under this BAA solicitation.